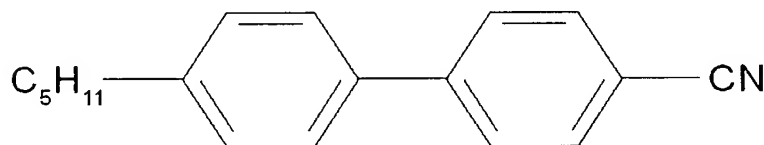


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The amendments to Claim 1 are supported by Claim 1 as originally filed, by specification page 7, lines 3-11, and by the several Examples beginning at specification page 13. The amendments to Claims 2-4 are supported by these claims as originally filed. New Claims 7-9 are supported by original Claims 4-6 and by the specification as originally filed. New Claim 10 is supported at specification page 10, lines 9-12. New Claim 11 is supported by the paragraph bridging specification pages 9-10. New Claims 12 and 13 are supported by the paragraph bridging specification pages 7-8 and by specification page 8, lines 15-25. No new matter has been entered.

As the Examiner will note, the claims have been amended in order to place them in more conventional U.S. method claim format and to specify that the liquid crystal polymer that is evaporated, deposited and solidified is a thermotropic liquid crystal polymer having a melting point of 250°C to 350°C. Thus, the evaporant in the presently claimed method is a thermotropic liquid crystal high polymer.

The material used in the two Gonzalo references applied against the claims, on the other hand, is a low molecular weight liquid crystal monomer, 5CB, depicted in Figure 4 of the 1999 Gonzalo article and Figure 1 of the 1997 article and having the formula:



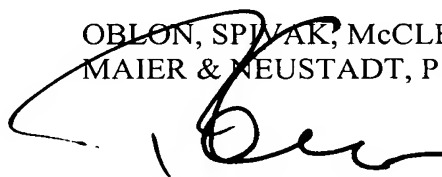
This low molecular weight monomer and its use in the Gonzalo methods in no way discloses, suggests, or enables a film making method as presently claimed using a thermotropic liquid crystal high polymer having a melting point of 250°C to 350°C.

For example, the reported melting point (nematic-isotropic transition) of 5CB is approximately 24-36 °C,¹ which is not unexpected for a low molecular weight monomeric specie. The presently claimed polymer, on the other hand, has a melting point of 250°C to 350°C and, necessarily, a vastly different vapor pressure, etc. as compared to 5CB. One of ordinary skill in the art thus would not be motivated to substitute such a completely different class of material into the Gonzalo methods, nor would one have had any expectation of success in using such comparatively different and distinct materials. Certainly, the benefits of the present invention discussed in the specification, including oxygen barrier properties, moisture protection, etc., are nowhere suggested.

Because neither Gonzalo reference discloses or suggests the methods as claimed herein, using a thermotropic liquid crystal high polymer, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and the passage of this case to Issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ See page 2752, bottom left, of the 1997 Gonzalo article and, e.g., linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S1386947706004504 ("For example, 5CB melts at 24 °C and clears at 35.3 °C. 5CB is a nice material to work with because it exhibits a nematic phase at room temperature and its ...").